

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

Senate agreed to S. Res. 95, Commending President and Armed Forces.
The House agreed to H. Con. Res. 104, expressing the support and appreciation of the Nation for the President and the members of the Armed forces who are participating in Operation Iraqi Freedom.
The House agreed to H. Con. Res. 95, establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2004.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S4043–S4223

Measures Introduced: Eleven bills and five resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 670–680, and S. Res. 95–96, and S. Con. Res. 25–27.

Pages S4165–66

Measures Reported:

S. 671, to amend the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States to modify temporarily certain rates of duty, to make other technical amendments to the trade laws. (S. Rept. No. 108–28)

S. Res. 48, designating April 2003 as “Financial Literacy for Youth Month”.

S. Res. 52, recognizing the social problem of child abuse and neglect, and supporting efforts to enhance public awareness of the problem, with an amendment.

S. Res. 58, expressing the sense of the Senate that the President should designate the week beginning June 1, 2003, as “National Citizen Soldier Week”.

S. 330, to further the protection and recognition of veterans’ memorials.

Page S4165

Measures Passed:

Commending President and Armed Forces: By a unanimous vote of 99 yeas (Vote No. 61), Senate agreed to S. Res. 95, commending the President and the Armed Forces of the United States of America.

Pages S4075–S4107

Iraqi Scientists Immigration Act: Senate passed S. 205, to authorize the issuance of immigrant visas to, and the admission to the United States for permanent residence of, certain scientists, engineers, and

technicians who have worked in Iraqi weapons of mass destruction programs.

Pages S4222–23

Congressional Budget Resolution: Senate continued consideration of S. Con. Res. 23, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2004 and including the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal year 2003 and for fiscal years 2005 through 2013, taking action on the following amendments proposed thereto:

Pages S4044–75, S4109–4152

Adopted:

By 51 yeas to 48 nays (Vote No. 62), Kyl/Sessions Modified Amendment No. 288, to provide financial security to family farm and small business owners by ending the unfair practice of taxing someone at death.

Page S4109

By 80 yeas to 19 nays (Vote No. 64), Rockefeller Amendment No. 275, to express the sense of the Senate concerning State fiscal relief.

Pages S4111–12

Rejected:

Graham (FL)/Dorgan/Stabenow Amendment No. 294, to provide a meaningful prescription drug benefit in Medicare that is available to all beneficiaries. (By 55 yeas to 44 nays (Vote No. 63), Senate tabled the amendment.)

Pages S4109–10

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that with respect to amendment No. 294 (listed above), that the names be reversed, and that Senator Graham’s name appear first as the one proposing the amendment.

Pending:

Schumer Amendment No. 299, to provide immediate assistance to meet pressing homeland security needs by providing funding in 2003 for first responders, port security, bioterrorism preparedness

and prevention, border security and transit security, the FBI; to restore the elimination of funding of the COPS program, firefighter equipment grants, Byrne Grants and Local Law enforcement grants; to provide a sustained commitment of resources for homeland security needs without reducing funding to other key domestic law enforcement and public safety priorities; and to reduce the deficit. **Pages S4046–63**

Brownback Amendment No. 282, to express the sense of the Senate that a commission be established to review the efficiency of Federal agencies. **Pages S4063–71**

Conrad (for Feingold/Corzine) Amendment No. 270, to set aside a reserve fund for possible military action and reconstruction in Iraq. **Pages S4071–75**

Breaux Amendment No. 339, to reduce tax cuts by \$375 billion and to reduce projected deficits by \$464 billion. **Pages S4113–25**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for a series of votes on certain amendments to begin at 9:45 a.m., on Friday, March 21, 2003. **Page S4107**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the resolution at 9:30 a.m., on Friday, March 21, 2003. **Page S4107**

Messages From the President: Senate received the following messages from the President of the United States:

Transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the additional steps taken with respect to the national emergency which was declared in Executive Order 12722 of August 2, 1990 by exercising the statutory authority to confiscate and vest certain property of the Government of Iraq and its agencies, instrumentalities, or controlled entities; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs. (PM–28) **Page S4163**

Messages From the House: **Pages S4163–64**

Measures Referred: **Page S4164**

Measures Read First Time: **Page S4164**

Executive Communications: **Pages S4164–4165**

Executive Reports of Committees: **Page S4165**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S4166–4168**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S4168–4181**

Additional Statements: **Pages S4159–63**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S4181–S4221**

Authority for Committees to Meet: **Page S4221**

Privilege of the Floor: **Page S4221**

Record Vote: Four record votes were taken today. (Total—64) **Pages S4106, S4109, S4110, 4112**

Adjournment: Senate met at 9:30 a.m., and adjourned at 11:30 p.m., until 9:30 a.m., on Friday, March 21, 2003. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S4107.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

NOMINATION

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: Committee concluded hearings to examine the nomination of Vernon Bernard Parker, of Arizona, to be an Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for Civil Rights, after the nominee, who was introduced by Senators McCain and Kyl, testified and answered questions in his own behalf.

APPROPRIATIONS: DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, State, and the Judiciary concluded hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2004 for the Department of Commerce, after receiving testimony from Donald L. Evans, Secretary of Commerce.

APPROPRIATIONS: FOREST SERVICE

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Interior concluded hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2004 for the Department of Agriculture Forest Service, after receiving testimony from Dale N. Bosworth, Chief, Forest Service, Department of Agriculture.

APPROPRIATIONS: EPA

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on VA, HUD, and Independent Agencies concluded hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2004 for the Environmental Protection Agency, after receiving testimony from Christine Todd Whitman, Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency.

DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION: ENERGY

Committee on Armed Services: Committee concluded hearings to examine proposed legislation authorizing funds for fiscal year 2004 for the Department of Defense, focusing on atomic energy defense activities of the Department of Energy, after receiving testimony from Spencer Abraham, Secretary of Energy.